

## **Protest Situation 2025 – 3**

### **The High Life isn't high enough**

Two Etchells approaching the second windward mark of the second race of the evening. After rounding the windward mark High Life #819 is astern of Black Sheep #598. HL moving more quickly, acquires an overlap to windward and continues moving up on Black Sheep. By the offset mark BS alters her course to windward to prevent HL from passing her. HL does not alter her course enough to avoid BS and BS's bow contacts the port aft quarter of HL causing some gelcoat damage. BS then bears away and continues down the race course. HL hails "Protest" and displays a red flag. No penalty circles are performed. HL alleges Rules 14 and 16.1 were broken.

Protest is valid; High Life, "windward boat" hailed Black Sheep, "leeward boat" before, after the incident, hailed "protest", flew a red protest flag, and notified the Race Committee at its finish.

Protested boat, Black Sheep, did not take penalty turns, RRS 44.

Facts found: The PC agrees with the description and diagram of the incident produced by High Life which was described above.

Rules applicable to this situation:  
RRS 11, On the same tack, overlapped

#### **Decision:**

High Life #819, the windward boat, is disqualified for not keeping clear of Black Sheep #5, the leeward boat.

The scorer is directed to score #819 DSQ from this race and update the scores of others effected by this decision.

#### **Educational points:**

This was the most accurately described and produced protest we have seen in many a year. The PC didn't have one question after reading the account of the incident. Please look at it and emulate it in the future.

Don't wish for what you don't have. If HL hadn't initiated this protest, she would likely have retained her original placing.

If you are going to attempt to pass another boat to windward, you must anticipate a luff from the leeward boat. This leeward boat can luff you without warning and can luff you to head to wind.

Etchells Protest Committee  
July 23, 2025